

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON HB5304

Representative Paul E. Opsommer, Chair  
Representative Ben Glardon, Vice-Chair  
Transportation Committee

Hugh E. Campbell, President  
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On February 22, 2012 The Village of Ellsworth unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to HB5304 removing funding for street maintenance from villages receiving less than \$50,000 Act 51 funding in 2012.

In fiscal year 2012 ending February 29, 2012 the village spent \$22,038 for major street maintenance, \$17,189 for local street maintenance and \$31,260 for the last payment on a 5 year road bond. The bond was used to finance the reconstruction of Main St/C65 along with Rural ISTE A Task Force Road assistance. This was a \$600,000+ project. The total cost for 2012 is \$70,709 compared to \$82,209 in 2011. The village has in the pipeline reconstruction of Church and Lake Street/C48 (The Breezeway) with Rural ISTE A Task Force Road assistance in 2014.

The loss of this funding would mean the loss of the village's only full time employee and 27 years experience. This person maintains the village, its streets, and DPW and is on call 24-7. The village would have to put this position on part time as a contracted worker. Finding a part time person (s) certified and licensed would be very hard to do.

Sweeping of the streets would be eliminated, cold patching of pot holes and snow and ice removing would be delayed making the village streets more hazardous for school children and commuters. This could also jeopardize the reconstruction of Church and Lake Street/C48 (The Breezeway) with Rural ISTE A Task Force Road assistance in 2014.

The village is audited every year by Baird, Cotter, and Bishop who keep close attention to how Act 51 money is spent.

Since Ellsworth is using its Act 51 Major and Local Streets efficiently, The Village of Ellsworth strongly recommends that you do not approve HB4304 as presented. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.